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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 29 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish air force.

On 26 April 1996, at 1120 hours, a formation of two Turkish air force RF4 aerial reconnaissance aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR without permission, flying at an altitude of 23,000 feet. The two aircraft overflew the Kormakitis cape, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and then flew along the western and southern coast of Cyprus and exited the north-western Nicosia FIR at 1209 hours, flying in the direction of Turkey.

At the same time, a Turkish warship was located in international waters 22 nautical miles west of Paphos, heading towards the south.

The repeated violations of the Nicosia FIR and of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkish military aircraft the last few years are indicative of the provocative attitude of Turkey, which in 1974 invaded and since then occupied 37 per cent of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

At the same time, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against these violations of the Nicosia FIR and of the Republic's airspace by Turkish air force aircraft. These violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus are contrary to the Charter of

the United Nations and to the resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Security Council on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Permanent Representative